Yat Ha (Anna) Yau

**Lesson Topic:** Introduction to Composting

**Grade:** K

**Lesson duration:** 45 min

**Subject:** Science

**Purpose:**

Students will become aware of what materials can be composted and understand composting helps the plants in the environment and reduces the trash.

**Objective:** Students will be able to recognize they can put parts of their lunch/snack in the compost to be recycled and identify what materials can be put into the compost to help recycle the environment.

**Standards:**

Danielson 3c: Engage students in learning

1.1b Plants require air, water, nutrients, and light in order to live and thrive

1.2a Living things grow, take in nutrients, breathe, reproduce, eliminate waste, and die

**Materials:**

* Book, “Compost Stew: An A to Z recipe for the Earth” by Mary Mckenna Siddals, Illustrated by Ashley Wolff
* 1 compost in clear container: Banana peel, shredded paper, apple core, avocado skin, carrot peelings, lettuce, parsley, dirt, leaves
* 1 clear container
* Pictures of different composts
* Paper for drawing what is in a compost

**Vocabulary:** compost, biodegradable

**Procedures:**

1. Today we are going to learn about composting: Composting is a natural way of recycling for the earth and can help the plants grow strong and healthy.
2. I am going to read you “Compost Stew” by Mckenna Siddals and I want you to look and listen and see all the different things you can put in compost stew.
3. Have students sit in a circle, prompt them by saying sit on the edge of the carpet.
4. Have different materials to show students: Banana, apple, garlic, leaves, carrot, lettuce, shredded paper, tea and tell students these items are all biodegradable, which means after we are done with them we can put them in the compost and recycle them back into the earth.
5. I made my own compost stew, Show students the box of compost scraps from my lunch/dinner. Pass the box around for students to look at the box and see what is in the box. Have students to raise hands to say what they saw in the box. Is there anything else we could put in the box?
6. Ask students to get their lunches/snacks. Tell them they can’t eat yet, we are only going to show each other what we can put in the compost stew. What things can you put in the compost? Using prompts with bag of items from step 4. Go around the circle and ask students what they would put from their own lunches in their compost stew?
7. I am going to leave this box out for your compost stew. Put your compost snack or lunch scraps in the box. I will take the box and put it in my compost so that it can be recycled back into the earth.
8. Independent work: Students draw 5 things they see that go into a compost to be recycled into the earth.

**Assessment:**  Students draw or tell the teacher what materials they have drawn in their compost.

Rubrics

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| **Able to draw or tell 5 materials or more for the compost stew.** | **Able to draw or tell 3-4 materials for the compost stew.** | **Able to draw or tell 1-2 materials for the compost stew.** | **Unable to draw or tell any materials for the compost stew.** |

Follow up lesson: Students will use the compost they made for planting.